

SENATE INQUIRY REVEALS NATIONWIDE GERMAN PROPAGANDA SYSTEM

BOAS SOUGHT
TO BUY PAPERS
IN PROPAGANDA

Activities of Hamburg-American Official Revealed to Senate Committee.

FOUND NONE AVAILABLE

Various Periodicals and
Dailies Approached by
German Agents.

Two reports relating to magazines and newspapers, of which Herbert Boas, son of the late Emil L. Boas, former managing director of the Hamburg-American Line in this country, and one C. T. Revere, otherwise unidentified, thought could be used for spreading German propaganda, have been sent to the Senate committee that is investigating German activities by Alfred L. Becker, Deputy State Attorney-General.

The reports, which bore no dates, evidently were prepared early during the European war. They were found in the files of the Hamburg-American Line. It was said officially that they reached Von Bernstorff at the German Embassy.

W. G. Sichel, a vice-director of the Hamburg-American Line, admitted under examination by Mr. Becker that he had received the report signed by Boas from him. He testified that he did not know that the reports were connected with the German propaganda campaign.

The younger Boas died in January, 1917. He took the Plattburg military training course in 1916 and became ill in camp of pneumonia poisoning.

Relating to Viereck's Weekly.

The report attributed to Boas deals with a project to buy a New York daily newspaper and a magazine. It was written in an irresponsible fashion with no pretence to grammatical correctness and with statements which largely on gossip. It starts abruptly and was evidently the continuation of an earlier report on the same subject. It was headed "Weekly and Daily Papers." The report follows in part: "The original scheme was the purchase of Viereck's weekly, the International. This was fully developed and \$1 per cent. of stock could have been purchased for nothing. Approximate cost of 15,000 copies weekly \$1,000 per week, \$50,000 a year. The scheme was dropped for obvious reasons explained to you.

"William Bayard Hale, who was the editor on a salary of \$5,000 a year and 25 per cent. of total profits at no risk to himself, seems anxious to either get another paper or start one, viz., a weekly. No doubt pecuniary interest in the scheme forms part of the desire on his part. To start a new weekly, it is estimated, would have no effect for at least six months, which are the most valuable. It can be done at any time if desired, however."

Months Not Available.

Boas said that he had carefully gone over the field and that the market for such a paper had narrowed itself down to two publications, Harper's Weekly and Current Opinion.

"The former," he said, "upon being traced to the ground is found not to be for sale. Current Opinion can be had for \$125,000. The total common stock is \$25,000, and the entire block with the exception of about 24,000 can be secured for \$125,000. Funk and Wagnalls own the paper, but the claim is that it is becoming too great a competitor of their Literary Digest, therefore they would be willing to dispose of it to some one who presumes would not make a great success of it. They claim that it has a net revenue as a monthly of \$25,000 yearly. It has \$7,000 circulation. What it could do as a weekly is a question. It would appear to be that to pay \$125,000 for a monthly review which must be turned into a weekly.

Morning Paper "Possibilities."

"Daily morning papers, New York. There are only two possibilities. The Sun and Press. The latter has little value; the former, great. The other morning dailies, Herald, American, World, Times, Tribune, are obviously not to be had. The presumption of a man closely connected with the newspaper world, who is a personal friend of mine, is that the 51 per cent. of the Sun must be had for \$150,000, its loss not amounting to more than about \$15,000 to \$20,000 yearly. Mr. Rick (Reick) was approached; expressed his willingness to do business, namely, to consider an offer of purchase, stand, however, that before going further he must know principals; that he had been approached by some German interests some weeks ago and of course I would not sell to them. It is believed that Morgan aided R. in purchasing Sun.

"Mr. Adams I saw and he proposed three possibilities, the idea that they be the purchasers for us, receive as compensation say 5 or 10 per cent. of stock and the permission to air their views on financial matters. The three are:

"William A. Reed (Read) of William A. Reed & Co. He is a positive bold man, who would not have to be beholden to J. P. M. & Co.

former to return to this city and take up business interests.

"A brilliant editor from some other city such as the editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Springfield Republican, etc., could then be secured at a salary to run the paper.

"Mr. Adams is not sure of these men being pro-German, but does not think that they are very pro-English. Brady is beholden to Tammany account of his association with the Consolidated Gas Company, etc. Mr. Adams will endeavor to find out more and let me know. Mr. Day may very possibly aid us with these men.

"I should like to know whether I should definitely throw down Current Opinion; whether it is a sure thing that a weekly be considered; in short, what course should be chosen.

(Signed) "H. A. Boas."

Boas, in his reference to Anthony Brady, undoubtedly had in mind Anthony N. Brady. Mr. Brady died in London in July, 1913.

No Negotiations for "The Sun."

W. C. Reick of The Sun said last night that he never met Boas. He added that no negotiations affecting The Sun were undertaken at any time with anybody with German connections.

The report attributed to Revere was unsigned. Its only identification was the line, "Dictated by C. T. Revere," at the end. It was headed "Memorandum for New Weekly Magazine."

It was alleged to be the elaboration of an idea suggested by H. L. McCure, who is called a brother of S. S. McCure. The reference is probably to a cousin of S. S. McCure. The report follows in part:

Mr. McCure's suggestion is the establishment of a weekly magazine. The idea is to publish the physical purposes of publication only with the Warner Magazine. Mr. Warner is the publisher of Field and Stream, Smart Set, and will start the publication of a new monthly fiction magazine, now named, in about one month, The New Yorker.

Thought Well of Mencken.

"Associated with Mr. Warner in his publishing enterprises are two very able editors, one H. L. Mencken, for a number of years associated with the Baltimore Sun and a frequent contributor of thoughtful articles to the leading magazines of America. The best example of which I recall is an article entitled 'The Mailed Fist and Its Prophet' in the Atlantic for either November or December, 1914.

"Mr. Mencken has won the reputation of writing the best book reviews that are being published today. He is a man of a high order of literary skill and talent; a very sound thinker, conservative in expression, and a highly skilled adept in the art of writing. Mr. Mencken is of German descent, although I am not certain whether of German birth or not. He makes an annual trip to Munich, Germany.

"Mr. Nathan, another one of the writers, is dramatic critic of Smart Set and has won a very high reputation for his work.

"It is the suggestion of Mr. McCure that Mr. Warner, Mr. Mencken and Mr. Nathan, who take part of their remuneration for their aid in establishing the magazine in stock. Mr. McCure also offers to be of whatever assistance he can.

"Mr. McCure stated that the amount which it would cost to establish this magazine would depend entirely upon the scale of the enterprise. He places a maximum of \$10,000 a month and a minimum of \$5,000 a month during the constructive period, which he stated should be over with in one year."

HUGE ALIEN PLANT

SOLD FOR \$4,150,000

Bosch Magneto Property,

Largest in U. S., Is Bought

by New York Man.

The Bosch Magneto property, held by A. Mitchell Palmer, Alien Property Custodian, was sold at auction yesterday to H. C. Griffiths of New York, who bid \$4,150,000. This is the largest manufacturing plant of its kind in the United States. When Joseph F. Guffey, director of the bureau of sales, offered it for sale H. G. Fisk of the Fisk Tire Company of Springfield, Mass., bid \$4,100,000. Mr. Griffiths raised the price \$50,000 and was awarded the property.

Other bidders were the Electric Corporation of New York and George B. Foster of New York. In his determination to Americanize German owned companies, notwithstanding the cessation of hostilities, Mr. Palmer sold two other plants yesterday. The P. Speidel Company, a concern engaged in the manufacture of large chains in Providence, was sold to a syndicate of Leach & Garner Company and J. F. Sturdy & Sons of Attleboro, Mass. The bid was \$313,000. Other bidders were Joseph Briskin, New York; Electric Chain Company, Attleboro, Mass.; R. R. Fogel & Co., 175 Broadway; E. A. Eddy Machinery Company, Providence; R. D. Sterling New York; Lederer Realty Company, Providence; McEneaney & Keeler, Attleboro, and James C. Doran, Providence. The German firm owned certain patents covering chain making machines which practically gives it a monopoly on such products.

The holdings of the Dresden Lace Works of Norwalk, Conn., amounting to 1,250 shares of 2,250 of the capital stock, were offered at auction. Richard Mueller of Norwalk, Conn., was the sole bidder. He offered \$100 a share and \$10,000 for rights under a certain contract to which the Dresden Lace Works is party. He already owns 700 shares of the company's stock.

Pipes for Scotch Regiments.

Special correspondence to The Sun.

London, Nov. 17.—All Scotch regiments are to be provided with bagpipes, according to an army order.

The order states that one set of pipes a pipe, including a sergeant pipe, will in future be supplied as regimental equipment.

SPIES PLOTTED TO
CONTROL AIRCRAFT

Continued from First Page.

merly leader of the Wilson campaign and is a deadly enemy of Wilson, as the latter did not keep his word to make him a Senator; therefore principally the sympathy for our cause.

"We well know that the task is great and the time is short; knowing, however, we have to consider that the present moment is very auspicious, as in the middle West, the West and even the South the opinion is gaining more and more momentum that the German requests are not without merit and that at last something must be done to put a stop to the encroachments which are seriously jeopardizing the interests and industries of this country.

Hearst Chicago Paper Quoted.

"A pertinent article from the local Hearst paper, Examiner, respectively enclosed herewith. I do not believe it is going too far to presume that inasmuch as a crisis is developing for the near future in the German-American negotiations public opinion in the United States, with the exception of that in the East, which will be the play of Mr. Marcus Brown in English, will turn more and more against the encroachments of England."

Included in the Relawitz letter was the first disclosure of the German programme of buying in the Wright patent. It was at Dayton, Ohio, and thereby shut off the manufacture of planes for the Allies, and by acquisition of the Wright patents make endless trouble for the Curtiss plant at Buffalo, which was then having legal entanglements with the Wrights which threatened to tie up their production.

"With some \$500,000 we would acquire a control over the whole Wright patent and thereby over the airplane factories in the whole United States for about one year. We would thereby be able to place in the position of being absolutely the greatest manufacturer of the export of flying machines from the United States," the letter continued, after stating that a German agent, named Von Alvensleben, had partly finished a deal for getting the Dayton plant. It then went on to say:

"But aside from this plan so far as can be foreseen appears to be a lucrative financial undertaking. We could then in case we so desired take over the Wright works on the ground of the contracts to be carried out.

Speculates on Air Law suits.

"At the present time there is pending, so I have heard, an action, Wright vs. Curtiss, in which Wright complains of default in the use of his patents. The action will come before the Supreme Court in Washington, September. In the first two trials Wright won and it is to be expected with quite a good deal of certainty that the last trial will be decided in his favor also. While the other possibility may not present themselves, which Curtiss can carry on his business, in view of the flexibility of the local patent laws, at least questionable. Regarding this question the opinion of an experienced patent attorney of Washington or New York should be first secured.

"We previously only contemplated the acquisition of an option for the purchase of the Wright company, inclusive of patents, for some three or four weeks, with the assistance of one of Wright's intimate, confidential men and a local business man, we will be able to do without cost. On the basis of the option we would then be in a position to examine carefully and then to make our decision. All other details, some of which are a little complicated, can be worked out at an early conference.

"So also the copies of both the judgments in the lower and higher courts have gone in. These, as also all other documents necessary for the determination of the matter, Mr. Von Alvensleben will bring with him personally."

Planned to Buy Press Association.

Another development of the German scheme to make America safe for Kultur included the proposed purchase and conduct under German auspices of the American Press Association, which was shown in a memo, which Dr. Albert had procured and which was found among his effects. It was pointed out that with a main office in New York and seventeen branches in other cities and with patent rights to the news ticker machines shared with the Central News, Ltd., of England, a splendid method of getting German made news before the public under the guise of legitimate foreign despatches would be presented. The memorandum reads:

"1. The American Press Association places its whole organization at the disposal of Mr. H. A. Albert in order to speed pro-German news or to make pro-German propaganda in any other way compatible with its organization. It is understood that this arrangement will keep within the limit of sound business principles, i. e., that the German propaganda shall be met by an extension of the profits of the organization. It must absolutely be avoided that the American Press Association becomes a recognized pro-German organization.

"2. This arrangement to be valid from July 15 until October 31, 1915. Within this time Mr. Albert has to decide whether he will make use of the option to buy the control of the association by paying the amount of \$20,000.

"3. As compensation for extending the option to the 31st of October, 1915, and placing the good will of the association at the disposal of Mr. Albert the aforesaid association will receive the sum of \$10,000, payable the first of each month. Mr. Albert will designate his delegates, who will confirm the necessary in daily conference with Mr. Smith the general policy to be pursued and the steps to be taken. [Courtland Smith is president of the American Press Association.]

"4. If the option is executed the sum stipulated under No. 3 will be deducted from the final payment to be made under this contract."

Mr. Bielski showed how in the mind of Count von Bernstorff at least, if not in the minds of the more noisy proponents of the Prussianizing of the

United States, sentiment was turning as the war progressed and he noted the development of the anti-German feeling in all quarters of the United States.

Other agents of the German Government, notably Dr. George Barthelme, Washington correspondent of the Cologne Gazette by title but active as a German spy, had said that he hoped "the Yankees were becoming reconciled." Count von Bernstorff according to Mr. Bielski cherished no such hope.

"The following cablegram from Von Bernstorff to the Wilhelmstrasse showed the fear," Mr. Bielski said.

As to the value of weekly papers in general there are here very different views. Mr. Bayard Hale wishes me to propose to you the founding of a first class weekly, whereas I, in my report No. 412, recommended the starting of a monthly. Personally I think it entirely depends upon whether we make a happy choice in respect of the editor. In this respect we have had a very unfortunate experience with the Times Mail. Only the future can show whether we shall have better luck with Mr. Huntington Wright and Mr. T. T. Rowan.

The fact of an American newspaper being subsidized can never be kept secret because there is no reticence in this country. It always ends with my being held responsible for all the articles of any such newspaper. This is particularly undesirable when, as now, we are in an electoral campaign of the bitterest character, which is turning largely upon foreign policy.

I have therefore, with much satisfaction to myself at least, succeeded in getting out of all relations with the Times Mail. I should also be glad to be free from the Fatherland, which has shown itself to be of little value.

It is particularly difficult in a hostile country to find suitable persons for help of this sort and to this, as in the Lusitania case, we may attribute the shipwreck of our German propaganda initiated by Herr Dernburg.

Conspirators Have Little Luck.

Even the German officials themselves, according to the witness, recognized the difficulties surrounding the subsidizing of the American press. It was remarked repeatedly in the documents that the extreme of secrecy had to be observed in all developments and that every step of organization must be carefully covered up.

An elaborate system of getting news out of Holland was perfected, but to get it to the United States was the difficulty. The express route of origin had to be observed in all developments and that every step of organization must be carefully covered up.

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He was editor of the book supplement of the New York Times just before he went abroad in 1907 and interviewed the Kaiser on the imperial yacht. The interview was accepted by the Century Magazine but was withdrawn before publication for reasons which have not been definitely explained. The Kaiser had railed against England, that much was certain. Hale himself said the article was not published because it would not have been fair.

Die Welt am Montag of Berlin asserted that the German Government after negotiations with Hale paid \$50,000 to suppress the interview. Hale said this was false; he hadn't received a cent.

Hale was employed by the World's Work from 1909 to 1912, but that magazine wrote the Wilson biography. In 1913 he edited the collection of the President's speeches which was published under the title "The New Freedom." His association with Mr. Wilson naturally led to the assumption that he was the President's agent when he went to Mexico in 1913, travelled about hobnobbing with bigwigs of all Mexican factions and made dinner speeches complimenting everybody in sight.

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Prominent in the list of organizers of the Truth Society was Jeremiah O'Leary. The contributors to the expenses of the organization, however, Mr. Bielski said, were \$50 to \$500 per cent. German Americans. Dr. Albert had a splendid method of getting German made news before the public, which he drew out \$500 for Gustav Gottlieb of the American Peace Society.

The State Department to-day drew on its files for the copies of the Bernstorff documents and all those which have been read into the record by Mr. Bielski, were made public. In the files of the Department are masses of evidence bearing on German intrigue in the United States both before and after the United States entered the war.

Red Flag Ordinance Signed.

Mayor Hylan yesterday signed the ordinance adopted by the Board of Aldermen that prohibits the display of the red flag or any other insignia opposed to organized government. The penalty for a violation is a fine of not more than \$100, or imprisonment not exceeding ten days, or both.

Red Flag Ordinance Signed.

MAKES
CARDS

A distinctive collection from which to choose. Cards which will carry the Spirit of Christmas Wishes in an individual manner. Inspection invited.

BRENTANO'S
5th Ave. & 27th St., New York

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IN BERLIN TRACEDWelcomed With Open Arms
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There is, for instance, the "open letter to President Wilson" dated "the Somme battlefield October 16, 1916," which was published in the New York American on December 10 of that year. It began: "Mr. President, in other days you have sometimes been pleased to use my eyes as your own. You have expressed confidence in the fidelity of my observation as a reporter."

What followed was a picture of men dying in battle and an appeal to President Wilson to end the war, with this testimony both as to Mr. Hale's "fidelity of observation" and his power of prophecy:

"This war is at a standstill. I have travelled 500 miles along the western German lines of defence. They cannot be broken through in a hundred years. . . . I have been on the east front. Nothing can happen there approaching to alter the decision, which might as well be rendered now as a year, or five or ten years hence. Without doubt all the Governments involved know this. All are weary, weary, weary of the strife. They await, Mr. President, the word that at this great moment should be spoken by the head of the chief of neutral peoples."

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Hale himself concerning the meaning of his mission, but in a fore note to a Hale article in the World's Work of May, 1914, it was said: "Dr. Hale went to the Mexican capital to investigate the events and the character of the Huerta regime. He remained three months, returning to Washington with a report which, according to common belief, decided President Wilson to refuse recognition of the Huerta government. Later Dr. Hale visited the revolutionary chiefs in northern Mexico, and held a series of conferences with Gen. Carranza and his staff; these conferences were followed shortly afterward by the abolition of the embargo on arms and munitions of war, which had placed the revolutionists at a disadvantage."

Dropped by President Wilson.

To this should be added a line from the "Who's Who" sketch of Hale: "Special agent of President Wilson in Mexico, 1913-1914."

After 1914 no public mention of any visit of Hale to the White House was made, and it was reported that the cordial relations between Mr. Wilson and his biographer had ceased. In that year and the year following Hale sent to newspapers and magazines articles and letters attacking the President's foreign policy. Strangely enough, in one of these articles, published in the Christian Herald in 1915, Hale strongly deplored the lifting of the Mexican embargo on arms and munitions, with which Hale himself had been credited by the World's Work the year before. In the Christian Herald Hale said that "the chaos which obtains in Mexico is in large measure the work of arms and cartridges made in the United States and exported to Mexico, where they have done their perfect work."

At the time Hale experienced this change of mind he was, according to the Bielski testimony in Washington, on the German Embassy payroll at \$15,000 a year. Hale himself said on Friday:

"It is perfectly well known that in the year 1914-15 I was advised by the German Information Service, a press organization conducted openly and aboveboard, with headquarters in Madison Square. I resigned in November, 1915."

As a Hearst Correspondent.

To correct an impression obtained by some hearers of the Bielski testimony that he was a paid German agent, Hale said when he was in Berlin as a correspondent for Mr. Hearst in 1915 and 1917, Hale said last night:

"The statement, by whomsoever made, that while in the employ of the New York American I ever received one penny from the German Government or from anybody connected with the German Government is a lie.

"The allegation that the German Government or anybody connected with the German Government, directly or indirectly, contributed one cent toward the payment of my expenses in Berlin is a lie.

"The fact is that in addition to liberal remittances from the New York American I was obliged to cash and did cash and expended in Berlin my personal letter of credit for \$5,000."

The Madison Square office of which Hale speaks was at 1123 Broadway. His principal effort there was aimed at stirring up American feeling against England and stopping the export of munitions. In this office, according to T. Everett Harre, who had been one of his assistants, Hale, on the day following the sinking of the Lusitania, edited and corrected a speech defending that crime, which Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, German Imperial Privy Councillor, delivered at Cleveland. This speech so irritated America that Dernburg had to leave the country.

Welcomed in Berlin.

D. Thomas Curtin, an American war correspondent, who was in Berlin for the World's Work and later sent letters to the Northcliffe publications, told in one of his dispatches, published in The Sun in 1916, of the shuffling of neutral correspondents by the German authorities. Of Hale he wrote:

"He came of course provided with the warmest credentials Count Bernstorff could supply. Long before Hale had a chance to present himself at the Foreign Office the Foreign Office presented itself to him, an emissary from the Imperial Chancellor having, according to the current in Berlin, left his compliments at Dr. Hale's hotel. He had not been in Berlin many days before an interview with Bethmann-Hollweg was handed to him on a silver platter."

Curtin got into trouble after this despatch was published. In his recently published book, "The Edge of the Quickmarch," he says:

"The highly organized attack which soon developed was directed from Berlin by William Bayard Hale, German America's super-ambassador to the German court and apologist in chief for the Fatherland in the United States. Incidentally Hale is the man who wrote Dernburg's justification of the sinking of the Lusitania, as revealed in Federal investigations of the Kaiser's purchase of the New York Evening Mail."

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